



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
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NEWS RELEASE

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CHILD PORN DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY

WICHITA, KAN. – United States Attorney for Kansas Eric Melgren announced today that a Wichita man faces a mandatory 15-year federal prison sentence after pleading guilty to sending and receiving child pornography over the Internet.

Ronald D. Hutchings, 38, entered a guilty plea Thursday afternoon before United States District Judge J. Thomas Marten, who set sentencing in the case for 2:30 p.m. Feb. 17, 2005. Hutchings has been in custody since his arrest Aug.30 and remains in custody.

Hutchings was indicted Aug. 25 on one count of receiving and distributing images of children involved in sexually explicit conduct. Because Hutchings has prior felony child abuse convictions – two 1994 convictions in Pratt County District Court for aggravated indecent liberties with a child – he is subject to a 15-year mandatory incarceration sentence.

“Those who choose to avail themselves of the gross, despicable exploitation of children should expect lengthy terms of incarceration,” Melgren said. “We are seeking them out and as we find them, just as in this case, we will aggressively prosecute them.”

The United States Attorney’s office in Kansas recently announced 15 indictments in child pornography cases. Though this case was not one of them, similar cases had been filed earlier and additional cases are under investigation, Melgren said. This case was investigated by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Brent Anderson.

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